

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 NEA-14

EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 FEA-02 EB-11 COME-00

TRSE-00 DLOS-07 COA-02 INT-08 DRC-01 IO-14 /144 W

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O R 181615Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3822

AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

COMSIXTHFLT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECDEF

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USDOCOSOUTH

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

DIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 3801

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MOPS GR TU

SUBJ: GREEK NAVAL EXERCISES

REF A. ANKARA 4740 (NOTAL) B. USDAO ATHENS 180855Z JUN 74 (NOTAL)

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1. REPORT OF HN SUBMARINE AND MINEWARFARE EXERCISES

DURING PERIOD JUNE 16-30 AND AREAS IN WHICH THESE TO TAKE PLACE, AS REPORTED REF A, VERIFIED BY USDAO ATHENS, WHICH IN REF B REPORTED AFFIRMATION BY HN THAT SUBNOTICE AND NOTICE TO MARINERS ISSUED. HN, WHEN QUERIED BY USDAO, DESCRIBED EXERCISE AS ROUTINE AND PART OF SPRING TRAINING CYCLE.

2. NEITHER EMBASSY NOR OTHER US AGENCIES IN GREECE HAVE DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF PAST PATTERN OF TIMING OR LOCATION OF HN EXERCISES AND THUS WE ARE IN NO POSITION TO VERIFY HN ASSERTION RE INNOCENCE OF EXERCISE. WE ARE STRUCK, HOWEVER, BY CLOSE COINCIDENCE OF TIMING OF EXERCISE WITH RUMORED SECOND APPEARANCE OF CANDARLI, OR OTHER SHIP COMMITTED TO TURKISH EXPLORATORY ACTIVITIES, AND OF EXERCISE AREA WITH THAT PREVIOUSLY DELIMITED IN TURKISH PRESS AS LICENSED FOR OIL EXPLORATION BY TURKEY.

3. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY ARE CONTINUING FOR BENEFIT OF EACH OTHER AND FOR RESPECTIVE PUBLIC OPINIONS TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHTS IN AREA THROUGH SCHEDULING OF NAVAL AND AIR EXERCISES (MOST RECENTLY REPORTED IN JUNE 17 LONDON TIMES). ALTHOUGH SUCH DEMONSTRATIONS OF NATIONAL WILL AND PUBLIC POLISHING OF ESCUTCHEONS BY BOTH SIDES COULD, UNDER WORST CASE ASSUMPTIONS, PRODUCE AN INCIDENT, WE WOULD NOT ANTICIPATE THIS UNDER CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES. FORTHCOMING TALKS BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTERS AND IMMINENCE OF LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE MILITATE AGAINST DETERIORATION OF SITUATION. TASCA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NAVAL FORCES, PETROLEUM, EXPLORATION, MILITARY EXERCISES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATHENS03801
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740158-0838
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740637/aaaabfqk.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. ANKARA 4740 (NOTAL) B. USDAO ATHE, NS 180855Z JUN 74 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <13 MAR 2003 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GREEK NAVAL EXERCISES
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, GR, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005